INFINITY

HICKMAN • DEODATO • MARTIN

ISSUE 9

AR

MARVEL

PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY

"AN OUTRIDER HUNTS FOR WHAT IS HIDDEN. AN OUTRIDER COLLECTS SECRETS."

SUCCESS.

ATTILAN. EARTH. THE INHUMAN KING. HE HIDES WHAT THANOS SEEKS.

"A BROTHERHOOD TO WHICH BLACK BOLT BELONGS. ILLUMINATI. POSSESSORS OF THE INFINITY GEMS.

"BUT THE GEMS ARE LOST. DEATH, SWEET DEATH, AND THESE MEN ARE COVERED IN IT."

YES, OUTRIDER, YOUR MESSAGE IS NOT IGNORED. LOOK UP, AS THERE IS NOT ONE DREADLORD HERE, BUT FIVE. THE BLACK ORDER HAS ASSEMBLED.

WE ALL KNOW OF EARTH. BUT THIS...THIS IS AN EARTH MORE FAVORABLE THAN ACCUSTOMED. AN EARTH CHANGED...

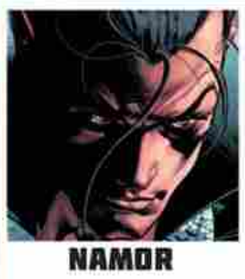
"BROTHERS. SISTERS. SHARPEN YOUR TEETH, PREPARE TO CONSUME A GREAT MEAL. EARTH, YOU SEE..."

...SHE HAS NO AVENGERS.

CAST

THE ILLUMINATI

DOCTOR STRANGE


NAMOR

BLACK PANTHER

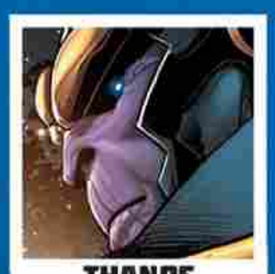
MISTER FANTASTIC

BLACK BOLT

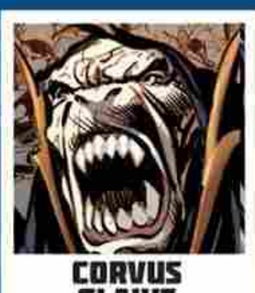
BEAST

IRON MAN

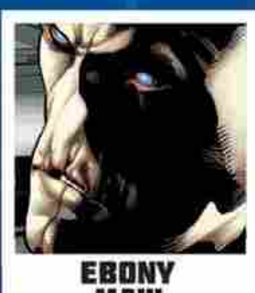
THE BLACK ORDER


THANOS

OUTRIDER


CORVUS GLAIVE

SUPERGIANT

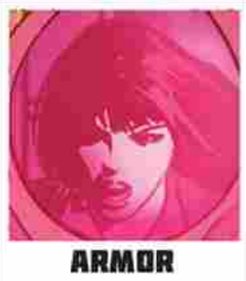

EBONY MAW

BLACK DWARF

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT

X-MEN

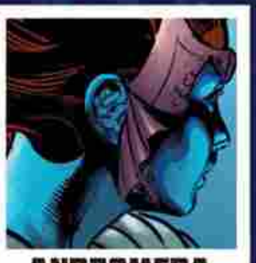
WOLVERINE


ARMOR

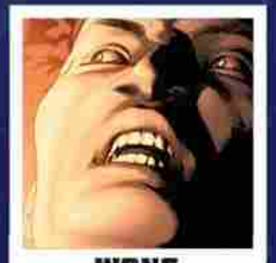
RACHEL GREY

ICEMAN

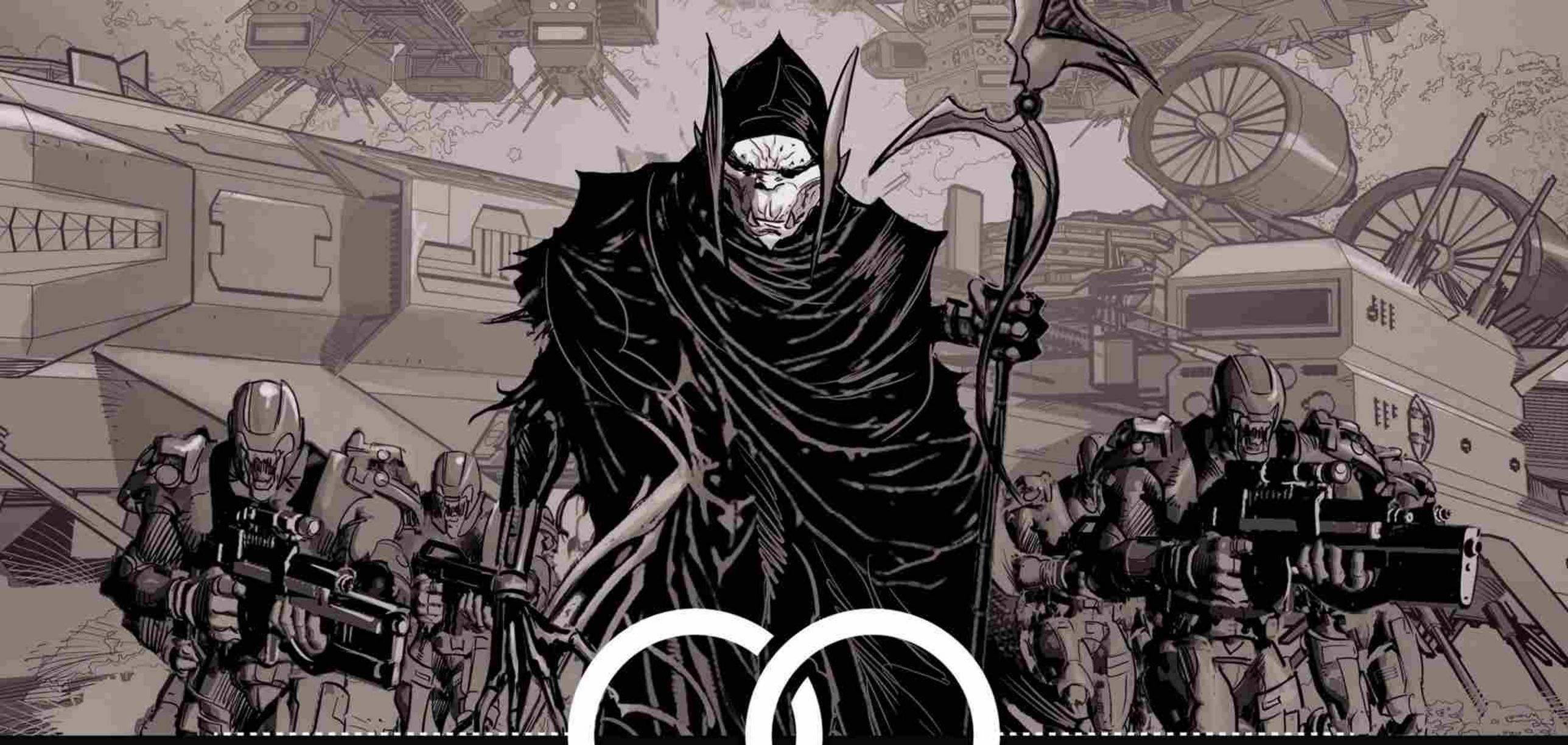
STORM


ANDROMEDA

BLACK PANTHER (SHURI)


WONG

MAXIMUS



"THE CULL OBSIDIAN"

WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN

ARTIST: MIKE DEODATO

COLOR ARTIST: FRANK MARTIN

LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER ART: MIKE DEODATO & LAURA MARTIN

ASSISTANT EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS

EDITORS: TOM BREVOORT with LAUREN SANKOVITCH

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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THE STONES, SHATTERED

ABOVE TITAN.
THEN.

OUT THERE IN THE COSMOS, A SYMPHONY OF DYING STARS AND BURNING WORLDS.

ONCE I WAS A CONDUCTOR, AND NOW... *LESS.*

SHOW IT TO ME AGAIN, CORVUS.

YES, MASTER.

THE OUTRIDER PULLED THE MEMORIES FROM THE INHUMAN KING'S MIND.

TIME BECOMES FLUID IN FORCED RECOLLECTION, BUT THESE HUMANS ARE RECOGNIZABLE TO US.

THEY HAVE... *UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE.*

AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY POSSESSED THE INFINITY GEMS.

POSSESSED, LORD THANOS.

THE UNBREAKABLE HAS BROKEN.

THE STONES ARE LOST.

NOT ALL.

LOOK! ONE DID NOT FRACTURE. IT SIMPLY DISAPPEARED.

IT HIDES FROM ME...BUT I NOW KNOW WHERE TO START THE SEARCH FOR IT.

MASTER, IF THE OTHERS ARE GONE...THEN THE GAUNTLET CANNOT BE RE-FORMED.

WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO SEARCH FOR A SINGLE ONE-- *ONE* IS A *DISTRACTION* WITH AN ENTIRE WORLD AT THE READY.

WE HAVE A PLANET TO RAZE.

ONLY ONE, SUPERGIANT?

WITH *ONLY ONE* YOU BECOME A GOD. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A GOD?

NOT *YET.*

NOT *YET*, BUT I KNOW *NOW*...AND IT IS WORTH MORE THAN MANY, MANY WORLDS.

AND WHAT OF OUR OTHER REASON FOR LOOKING TOWARDS EARTH, MASTER?

WHAT OF THE TRIBUTE?

YOU AND THE OTHER CULL OBSIDIAN WILL FIND THE GEM FOR ME, EBONY MAW. FIND IT, AND LAY IT BEFORE MY FEET.

I WILL DEAL WITH THE OTHER.

THE *TRIBUTE*... IS MINE.

THE CULL OBSIDIAN

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.

INVASION.

QUICKLY NOW, REED.

I'M SPINNING UP THE ARC REACTOR POWERING THE TOWER'S NEW DEFENSE SYSTEM, BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SMALL WINDOW IN WHICH TO ACT.

I COUNTED OVER 50 VESSELS, ANTHONY. WE'LL HAVE MAYBE 60 SECONDS BEFORE THEY TRIANGULATE ON THE TOWER AND WE BECOME THE FOCUS OF THEIR FULL ATTENTION...

SMALL WINDOW, INDEED.

SYSTEM ACTIVATED...

BRINGING THE BATTERIES ONLINE.

I'VE GOT A GREEN LIGHT ON THE SECOND STATION.

WHAT NOW?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, REED?

"FIRE."

BA-BA-BOOOOOM!

KILL RADIUS LOOKS TO BE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE.

EFFECTIVE, BUT WE'VE GOT THEIR ATTENTION NOW AS WELL...

THE ENTIRE WING IS VECTORING ON OUR POSITION. FIFTEEN SECONDS OUT.

GOOD. ALL EYES ARE ON US...

IF WE ARE LUCKY...WE'LL BUY EVERYONE ELSE MORE TIME.

WAKANDA.

WE ARE WINNING, BROTHER!

WE IMPROVED OUR ALREADY FORMIDABLE DEFENSES BECAUSE WE KNEW WAR WITH ATLANTIS WAS INEVITABLE.

THANK BAST FOR PROVIDENCE, SHURI.

"THE GOLDEN SHIELDS PROTECT US FROM ORBITAL BOMBING, AND ALMOST ALL OF THE APPROACHING SHIPS ARE BEING KNOCKED DOWN BEFORE THEY REACH THE CITY PROPER...

"OUR ONLY CONCERN IS MAKING SURE NO ONE REACHES WAKANDA ON FOOT."

DONE.

NOW IF ONLY WE COULD FIND OUT WHO--

THUNK!

LOOK!

BEHIND YOU, T'CHALLA.

WHERE THE JUNGLE MEETS THE FIELDS...

"IT SEEMS TODAY WE HUNT...*LION*."

I SEE THAT NOT ALL ON THIS WORLD ARE WEAK. MEN DIE AND THE FIELDS ARE BURNING...THE WORLD, JUST AS THANOS INTENDED.

I AM THE *BLACK DWARF*, AND I SEEK THE GEM...AND THE MAN WHO HOLDS IT.

IS THERE A GREAT WARRIOR HERE WHO WOULD FACE ME...OR DO I HAVE TO HUNT YOU DOWN?

I AM WHO YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.

I AM THE BLACK PANTHER.

KING OF THE DEAD...

AND SOON TO BE YOUR NEW LORD.

WHAM!

ATLANTIS.

"THE ENTIRE CITY IS THIS WAY, GENERAL...READINGS OF LIFE-FORMS ARE SPORADIC..."

DID THANOS SEND THE OTHERS HERE FIRST?

NO. THIS WAS SOMEONE ELSE.

I CAME SEEKING A MAN OF CONSEQUENCE CAPABLE OF WIELDING AN INFINITY GEM...

INSTEAD I FIND A BROKEN PRINCE, RULER OF A BROKEN CITY.

THERE IS NO GEM HERE. NO ONE WHO HAD SUCH POWER WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PRINCE?

BE WARNED... I WILL SUFFER NO FOOLS THIS DAY.

WHO ARE YOU...AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I AM PROXIMA MIDNIGHT OF THE BLACK ORDER...AND I AM HERE TO KILL YOU.

BUT I SEE NOW THAT YOU ARE ALREADY DEAD...

YOU JUST HAVEN'T REALIZED IT YET.

YOUR REPUTATION, NAMOR...SEEMS OVERSTATED.

YOU DO NOT APPEAR TO BE THE SPORT I WAS SEEKING, BUT PERHAPS YOU MAY YET HAVE SOME VALUE.

LEAVE. NOW.

I WILL NOT ASK AGAIN.

I CANNOT DO THAT. THANOS HAS DEMANDED CERTAIN THINGS COME TO PASS...AND I OWE MY TITHE, PRINCE.

SO I WILL LEAVE--I WILL HAVE MERCY ON YOU AND LEAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR NATION ALIVE...

IF YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE REMAINING INFINITY GEM.

"CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME, PRINCE?

"CAN YOU SAVE WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF ATLANTIS?"

THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM.
NEW YORK.

URK!

EVERYONE HAS LIMITS.

...AN END TO WHAT THEY ARE.

I, FOR INSTANCE...I OPERATE IN INFORMATION, GAINING INFLUENCE AND SEEDING DISCORD.

HOWEVER, I CANNOT TEAR INTO A MAN'S MIND AND SEE WHAT MAKES THEM WEAK...WHAT MAKES THEM STRONG...

I HAVE TO RELY ON MY WORDS...

BUT WHAT WORDS THEY ARE.

SWEET WHISPERS OF SECRET FEARS...

DOOUHHHHHH...

GO ON, DOCTOR...TELL THE EBONY MAW ALL THE MYSTERIES YOU HAVE HIDDEN IN YOUR MIND.

I...I... DON'T KNOW WHERE THE GEM IS...

CURSE THE GEM, DOCTOR. A FOOL'S QUEST IF THERE EVER WAS ONE...

I *WANT* WHAT *THANOS WANTS.*

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL.
NEW YORK.

GET BEHIND ME.

FORWARD! FIND THE STONE! FIND THE ONE WHO HOLDS IT!

LOOK, SUPERGIANT...

HEAVY GAME.

FODDER MOSTLY. AN ETERNAL MAN. AN ELEMENTAL. SOME MINOR MEMBERS WITH MENTAL ACUITY.

NO... THE ONLY REAL DANGER IS THE OMEGA LEVEL MUTATES...

I WILL TAKE THE MIND OF THE MEGAMORPH NOW AND MAKE IT MY OWN. I WILL USE THIS...

"...ICEMAN."

AAIIEEEEEE!

THERE. MUCH BETTER.

USEFUL.

LOOK OUT!

BOBBY'S LOST HIS DAMN MIND.

LESS LOST THAN STOLEN, I THINK.

IT HAS TO BE ONE OF THE INVADERS, LOGAN.

"YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP *THEM* TO STOP *HIM*."

START FIGURING OUT SOME WAY TO THAW EVERYONE OUT, HANK...

I'M GOING TO MAKE QUICK WORK OF--

HURK!

THUNK!

BRAVADO... IS GOOD.

ALL GREAT WARRIORS ARE MARKED BY IT...

AND THEN ONE DAY, IT PUTS THEM INTO THEIR GRAVE.

THIS IS *THAT DAY*, MUTANT.

T'OOM!

NO.

AARGHHH!

KRAKKA-KOOOOM

I SEE WHAT YOU WERE DOING, WITCH...

LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT WHEN THE FAVOR IS RETURNED.

I'VE LOST THE ICE SHAPER, CORVUS.

NO MATTER. I'M DONE WITH THIS ONE...

ARGGGHHHH!

THUNK!

"TIME TO SHOW THESE CREATURES THE INEVITABLE AND UNBENDING NATURE OF THANOS.

"LET THEM LEARN WE CANNOT BE BEATEN."

WAKANDA.

"VICTORY, BROTHER...LOOK AT HOW THEY RUN!

"WHEN WILL THE WORLD LEARN THAT WAKANDA IS NO EASY MEAL?"

WE WERE FORTUNATE, MY QUEEN...

MUCH MORE WITH THAT MONSTER AND I THINK HE WOULD HAVE BEATEN ME...

I THINK I BROKE MY HAND.

WELL, IT WAS WORTH IT...

AR

IT ALWAYS IS WHEN YOU CAN SEE YOUR ENEMIES FLEEING FROM YOU.

THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING THIS KIND OF RESISTANCE, SHURI. IF THEY HAD, THEY WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A BIGGER ARMY.

YOU HEARD THEM...THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. BEST NOW TO PREPARE FOR THEIR RETURN.

HRMPT! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING REGARDING A GEM, BUT DON'T DOUBT THE LESSON OF THE WHIP, T'CHALLA... WE BEAT THEM BADLY.

IT WAS THE OLDEST FORM OF EDUCATION.

WHAT REASON WOULD THEY HAVE TO RETURN?

ATLANTIS.

YOU HAVE KNEELED, AND SO ATLANTIS IS SPARED.

I HAVE ACCEPTED YOUR ALLEGIANCE IN EXCHANGE FOR WHAT YOU PROMISED. ARE WE AGREED?

MY LIEGE, YOU CANNOT DO THIS. WHILE THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO WOULD FIGHT, ATLANTIS MUST--

BE SILENT, ANDROMEDA.

IT'S DONE, PROXIMA.

YOU HAVE MY WORD.

EXCELLENT.

NOW... WHERE IS THE GEM?

WHERE DO I SEND *ALL* THE ARMIES OF THANOS?

A PLACE CALLED... *WAKANDA.*

ATTILAN.

THE WORLD IS ON FIRE, BLACK BOLT.

TICK. TOCK.

ONE MORE SMALL STEP AND IT'S OFF THE LEDGE WE GO...

JUST ONE...

SMALL...

TINK!

STEP.

"IT'S TIME.

"TIME FOR SECRETS TO BE REVEALED TO YOUR SECRET SOCIETY.

"TIME TO LET THEM KNOW WHY ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING.

"TIME TO USE THE MACHINE.

"AND TIME FOR PLANS WITHIN GREATER PLANS TO BE SET IN MOTION."

BROTHER... THIS IS GOING TO BE...SO... MUCH...FUN.

CULL OBSIDIAN
(THE BLACK ORDER)

CORVUS GLAIVE: The first of the five. Thanos' most favored. Corvus is cruel, arrogant and the most loyal of the Black Order. A warrior who betrayed his people and sold his soul to Thanos to pursue a different kind of glory.

POWERS: Strength, speed…As long as his otherworldly blade remains whole, he cannot die.

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT: The cruelest of Thanos' generals. A predator in every sense of the word, Proxima Midnight is the greatest warrior in Thanos' army.

POWERS: Savage hand-to-hand fighter. Her spear, when thrown, transforms into three tracers of black light that never miss. These beams are lethal to most creatures.

BLACK DWARF: When compared to the others of the Black Order, Black Dwarf seems almost normal. Feigning joy and contentment, in reality this celestial nihilist is simply more at peace with the oblivion Thanos seeks than the others of the Black Order.

POWERS: Super-strength. Super-dense, unbreakable skin.

SUPERGIANT: History unknown. An mentally unstable omnipath and telepathic parasite, Supergiant seeks out intellect and devours it. What she knows, Thanos knows.

POWERS: Mental parasite. Controls, steals or devours the minds of her victims.

THE EBONY MAW: A thin razor of a man. Not a fighter, a thinker. A black tongue that spreads mischief and evil wherever he goes. He seems to be the weakest of the Black Order, but in truth, he is the most dangerous of them all.

POWERS: Believed to be none, but that, like most things about him could be a lie.

INFINITY

CHECKLIST

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INFINITY

AVENGERS

NEW AVENGERS

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INFINITY

NEXT

INFINITY #2

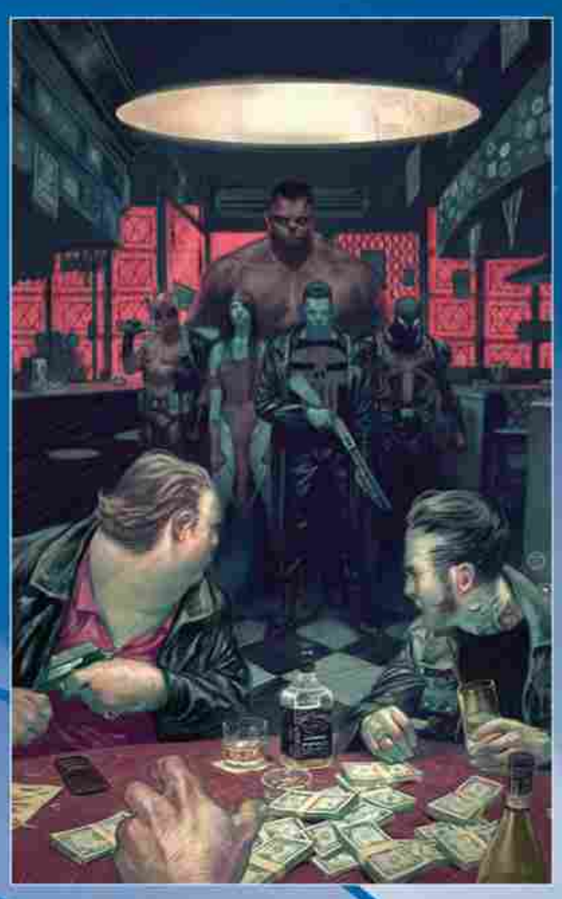
NEW AVENGERS #10

TIE-INS

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #18

CAPTAIN MARVEL #15

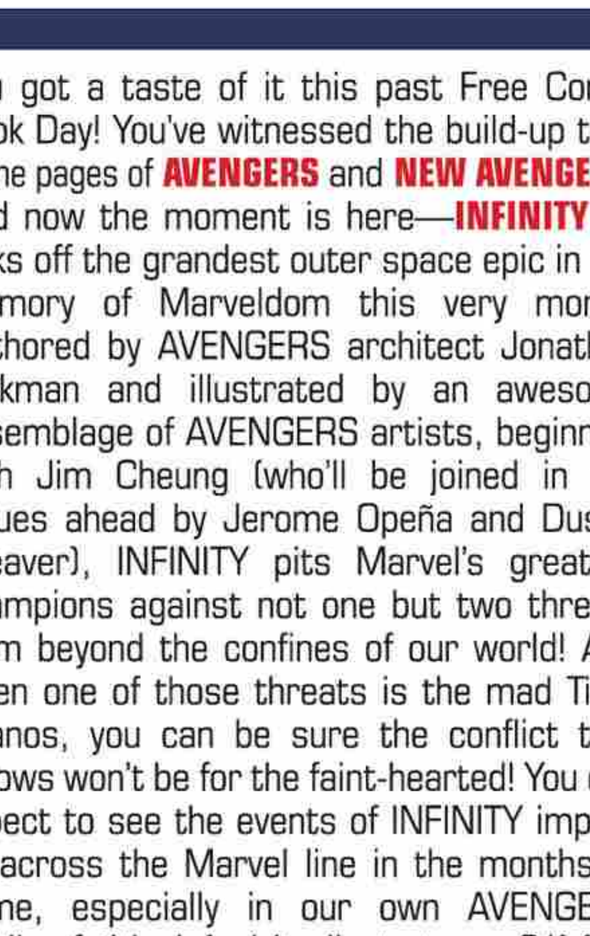
THUNDERBOLTS #14



THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

You got a taste of it this past Free Comic Book Day! You've witnessed the build-up to it in the pages of **AVENGERS** and **NEW AVENGERS**! And now the moment is here—**INFINITY #1** kicks off the grandest outer space epic in the memory of Marveldom this very month! Authored by AVENGERS architect Jonathan Hickman and illustrated by an awesome assemblage of AVENGERS artists, beginning with Jim Cheung (who'll be joined in the issues ahead by Jerome Opeña and Dustin Weaver), INFINITY pits Marvel's greatest champions against not one but two threats from beyond the confines of our world! And when one of those threats is the mad Titan Thanos, you can be sure the conflict that follows won't be for the faint-hearted! You can expect to see the events of INFINITY impact all across the Marvel line in the months to come, especially in our own AVENGERS family of titles! And it all starts on 8/14 at your local comic shop or digitally on the Marvel App!



Hey, you AR fanatics! We're so excited about INFINITY this month that we wanted to clue you in to a little Easter Egg we've planted for you to find! Embedded within the pages of the various "Prelude to INFINITY" issues of AVENGERS and NEW AVENGERS (that's AVENGERS #14-17 and NEW AVENGERS #7-8) we've hidden AR activations that will give you the inside scoop on some of what you'll be seeing in the main INFINITY event! To access them, all you need to do is point the Marvel AR App on your digital device at the appropriate page! Which page? Hey, we can't make everything easy for you! But we're confident that genuine dyed-in-the-wool True Believers will be able to hunt them out!

You'd like a feel-good letter to close out on, wouldn't you?

January 6 my husband and I celebrated our eleven year anniversary, and I know that I am blessed to be married to a true super hero. I turned 42 on December 21 and enjoy reading comics. It's actually my first time to read comics ever!

I grew up being taught this stuff was inappropriate and almost evil. I would secretly watch the Hulk on TV and worked at a movie theatre where I had the excuse to try and enjoy entertainment. Comics were for boys anyway. Super heroes were a joke. When my husband and I were married he knew I was uncomfortable with all his comics, so he sold them.

Then on July 4th, 2007 I lay in a hospital room as a doctor walked in and diagnosed me with Leukemia. The next five months the hospital would be my second home and three more months on an experimental chemo with the hope of keeping me alive. I would go at times seven days a week for twenty four hours a day having chemo pumped into a port in my chest. The times I was able to come home my husband would have to give me shots every day, cook, write the bills, clean, laundry, and he even came down with the flu and still kept going. He also had to go to work and I still always had a homemade sandwich brought to me every day while in the hospital. He was Hulk smashing through it all!!

The next thing we knew we were hiking the Grand Canyon! We just celebrated me being five years Leukemia free!

The Avengers were about to be released in the theatre and Jason was really pumped for this. There was no way I would let my super hero miss this because of me even though I was not excited. Super heroes were a joke, remember? I decided we could rent Thor so I would at least know another super hero besides Hulk. STOP THE PRESS!!! That moment changed everything! I couldn't believe the amazing story I was seeing.

It didn't stop there because I had us watching Iron Man and Captain America while my husband sat there frozen in disbelief! Then the big day in May came, and I don't think Jason had fully recovered from shock as he sat next to the once super hero hater who now anxiously awaited the start of the movie!

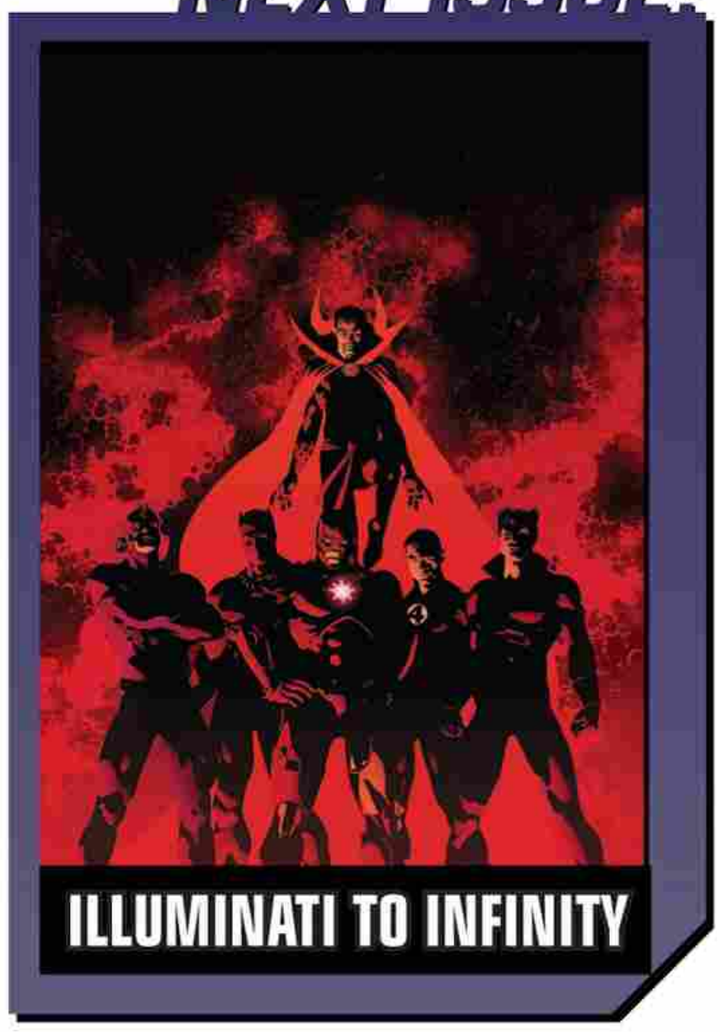
The rest is history and now I am the one telling him which comics are coming out and making sure we don't miss one issue! What a perfect time for a new beginning in Marvel comics! We now are getting Thor, Iron Man, Captain America, Hulk, Avengers Assemble, and Avengers.

We now have comic night and I get to read Thor and Iron Man first but he gets first call on the others. I love the different art in each comic and how so many awesome stories can be told. I think every hospital should be required to have a subscription to Marvel Comics. We need this in the world we live in. Comics and heroes are great and it's okay to like them. When you see a whole bunch of families and friends cheering together in a movie and seeing the fun reading the comics has brought to me and my husband, how could that be wrong?

It could be cancer or whatever obstacle that will enter our lives that may seem too much to handle but I believe we are never given anything we are not able to conquer, so put the hammer down on it or Hulk smash your way through it or whatever superpower you love just use it and don't give up!
Thanks again Marvel for keeping the stories going!

Kimberly Kappmeyer
Lady Asgard

NEXT ISSUE:



AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #17
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! TO FACE THE COMING THREAT, THE AVENGERS TAKE ON NEW RECRUITS!

AVENGERS #18
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AVENGERS PETITION THE COUNCIL OF WORLDS!

AVENGERS ARENA #13
THE AVENGERS ACADEMY SEARCHES FOR ITS MISSING STUDENTS!

AVENGERS ARENA #14
"BOSS LEVEL," THE FINAL STORY ARC, BEGINS!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #18
INFINITY TIE-IN! SPIDER-WOMAN IS ON THE FRONT LINES!

INFINITY #1
IT'S A WAR ON TWO FRONTS, WITH THE HEROES OF EARTH TORN BETWEEN THEM!

NEW AVENGERS #9
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE CULL OBSIDIAN STRIKES EARTH!

SECRET AVENGERS #8
MOCKINGBIRD, TRAPPED BEHIND ENEMY LINES!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #11
WILL THE SCARLET WITCH AID IN THE MUTANT RAPTURE?

YOUNG AVENGERS #9
HEARTBREAK SHATTERS THE YOUNG AVENGERS!

AVENGERS AI #2
DIMITRIOS RISES—WITHIN THE SENTIENT IRON MAN ARMOR!

A + X #11
THOR AND MAGIK! CYCLOPS AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #17

NOW